Res Publica - Journal of Undergraduate Research

Volume 17 | Issue 1 Article 5

2012

# Author's Biographies

Recommended Citation
(2012) "Author's Biographies," *Res Publica - Journal of Undergraduate Research*: Vol. 17
Available at: http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/respublica/vol17/iss1/5

This Prefatory Notes is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

# Author's Biographies

This prefatory notes is available in Res Publica - Journal of Undergraduate Research: http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/respublica/vol17/iss1/5

# AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHIES

**Hannah Griffin** is a senior Political Science major and Hispanic Studies minor. On campus she is a staff member of the student newspaper, The Argus. She served as the 2011 news editor. She is a member of the media honor society, Gamma Upsilon, as well as a member of the political science honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha. She has held internships with the St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office in Belleville, IL. and The National Head Start Association in Washington, D.C. She worked on the IWU Communications Office staff for two years, and now works at Country Financial Insurance as a media relations intern. She recently received the Boyd F. Goldsworthy academic scholarship for Illinois Wesleyan students and will be attending law school at the University of Notre Dame in the fall.

**Lauren Contorno** is a senior Political Science major with a minor in Environmental Studies. Throughout her four years at Illinois Wesleyan, she has been an active member of Kappa Delta Sorority and was vice president of Pi Sigma Alpha, political science honor society. She also interned with several non-profits, including the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Chicago, Marcfirst of Normal, IL, and the Illinois Stewardship Alliance. Lauren also spent a semester abroad in Perugia, Italy. This past fall, she was Illinois Wesleyan University's recipient of the 2011 Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate Award. After graduation, she hopes to land a career in the field of environmental justice and eventually return to school to earn a Ph.D.

**Laura Gaffey** is a senior at Illinois Wesleyan University with majors in Political Science and Hispanic Studies and a minor in French and Francophone Studies. She is the president of College Democrats and Pi Sigma Alpha political science honor society and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She spent a semester interning in Washington D.C. and studying at Georgetown University, as well as a semester studying in Madrid, Spain. Laura has interned at a homelessness advocacy organization, at the U.S. Senate, and on political campaigns. After graduation, she hopes to work in politics and eventually attend graduate school.

**Jiaxing (Jason) Xu** is a senior at Illinois Wesleyan University with majors in Political Science and Accounting. He is a member of both Pi Sigma Alpha political science honor society and Phi Kappa Phi. He currently supervises IWU's student transportation program (Titan Transport) and is a political science research assistant. During the first two years in college, his primary interest was in accounting. He volunteered at a local tax center, preparing tax returns for low-income, disadvantaged people, and interned in the finance department of a large corporation in Shanghai for a summer. He later found himself truly interested in the legal system and jurisprudence. After graduation, he will be attending law school at the University of Pennsylvania. With his background, he hopes to practice in corporate law or transnational transactional law at a global law firm.

**Timothy Luby** is a senior Political Science major and Economics minor. He works as a Political Science research assistant, and is a member of the Order of Titans honorary. His research interests focus on environmental politics as well as state and local government. He is the captain of Illinois Wesleyan's cross country and track teams as well as the school record holder in the 3 and 5 Kilometers. After graduation, Timothy hopes to gain employment in either a federal or local law enforcement agency, along with possibly pursing a graduate degree in Criminal Justice.

**Tracy Lytwyn** is a senior Political Science major with minors in Business Administration and Religion. Throughout her four years at Illinois Wesleyan, she was involved in a variety of activities, including acting as president of College Republicans, historian for business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi, a writer for The Argus, and a DJ for WESN Radio. She also made time for her first love, the saxophone, by playing in three campus ensembles. Tracy served as an intern for two local politicians, for IWU's Action Research Center, and as the communications specialist for the Hart Career Center. Additionally, she had the opportunity to volunteer with Adopt a U.S. Soldier, Crossroads Global Handcrafts, Alternative Spring Break, and her home church in Naperville, IL. She is truly grateful for the political science department's encouragement and support over the past four years of her life.